

HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AND
HAMILTON COUNTY COUNCIL
JOINT MEETING
JUNE 1, 2005

The Hamilton County Board of Commissioners and Hamilton County Council met on Wednesday, June 1, 2005 at the Strawtown Koteewi Park, 12308 Strawtown Avenue, Noblesville, Indiana. Commissioner President Altman called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. A quorum was present of Commissioner Christine Altman, Commissioner Steven C. Dillinger and Commissioner Steven A. Holt. A quorum of Council member was present - Brad Beaver, Jim Belden, John Hiatt, Judy Levine, Rick McKinney and Steve Schwartz. Meredith Carter was absent.

Fiscal Issues

Altman stated the Commissioners know the Council is looking at the necessity of implementing two new taxes. The Commissioners feel the Food and Beverage Tax is an important tax in terms of potential revenue and in terms of our need to look regionally for the health of Hamilton County and central Indiana. That is a positive sign at looking at our economy as a regional issue.

COIT

Altman gave up update on the COIT issue.

Hamilton County has received agreed entry to the data.

Our accounting personnel hope to have data by the end of the week. Accountants will look at that data and hopefully have a preliminary assessment to us by June 20th. We will then receive an update on fees and an indication on how far they can get with the data they have. We anticipate we will have to do additional audit tests.

Economic decisions will have to be made in mid-June.

Anticipate that we will know if we have accurate data and prognosis by the end of year in terms of COIT.

Given some of the backlash we have received on the two taxes (Wheel and Food and Beverage) it makes sense to go forward with the tax that would be implemented August 1st and provide the immediate revenue source.

Altman stated she knows the council is trying to preserve half of the property tax, but we do have a cash balance to see us through the end of the year. For that reason the commissioners are concerned about implementing two taxes in one year. The commissioners think the most immediate relief to the county and provide the most flexibility would be the Food and Beverage Tax. The Wheel Tax will have limited benefit. If it was to enhance the highway department, we would have a different opinion. It appears from the budget numbers it would supplant the budget instead of what we need to do. The commissioners are very concerned about the highway department's budget, what the council has done on the numbers for insurance. We fully expect we will have very huge declamation on where we are on the Motor Vehicle Fund and some of the other funds because of the annexation issue. Local Road and Street will have the biggest hit with annexation. The other \$600,000 and COIT not funding where we were, we will not be able to maintain the streets to the same standard we have now. We don't feel we will be able to do resurface and our concern with resurfacing is that if you let it go one year you will have 2-3 years damage if you let it slide.

McKinney stated from his conversations he has had with representatives of the Governor's office, we need to be really careful and not go too quickly on the Food and Beverage Tax, we may lose our leverage. Once we do it we are locked in to 30 years, there is no rescinding. Once we give them the tax we have no leverage regarding COIT.

Beaver, Hiatt, John Culp and Mike Reuter met with State representatives - Chuck Schalliol, Chris Ruhl, Bob Lane and John Eckard on May 26th to discuss the COIT issue. The State did not disagree with our opinion nor did they make any promises. State agreed they will not make any statements until the accounting is done. State is anxious to have this issue worked out. State is not going to write us a check but they did promise the county access. Eckard told Beaver that he does not have enough qualified employees to simultaneously monitor the auditors for the county so the State will wait for the county to complete it's audit before they come to their conclusion.

\$100,000 was originally appropriated for COIT issue. Attorney's have submitted claims against that, but we have not had a claim from the accountants. Altman will ask if we can double up on our accounts.

Reuter stated the State is using very conservative assumptions on projecting future COIT distributions which keeps our future distributions down. Reuter stated he disagrees with the budget agency saying that they are not taking some of our balance or trying to collect some of the balance back. Reuter stated we will not see an immediate return on the process. Will need legislative change to improve this.

McKinney asked if we could look at sharing the expense, Carmel, Fishers and Noblesville have all said they would chip in. Altman stated when we get the initial review of the data we will have projections and then at that point we can say to the entities here are the dollars and we want that to come out of any distribution over and above what has been projected.

Wheel Tax

Commissioners not in favor of Wheel Tax. Don't pass two taxes in one year. Wait one year to see if COIT issue is resolved.

If Wheel Tax is not passed, will not save highway department the insurance costs of \$600,000.

2006 Budget

Define what hiring freeze is. No new people. Don't need to replace employees when they leave.

Capital Projects

Sheriff's Need

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Currently there is a 10% yearly growth in the jail population. Annexation will not change the jail population growth.

Working with the same numbers of employees as in 1995.

Juvenile Services Center construction is moving along. The challenge will be staffing the facility.

Can not take another 4% out of the Sheriff's budget again.

Can not allow an employee to leave and not replace them.

Jail does not have the option to close the doors. It is a 24/7 facility.

Issues that needed to be addressed:

Storage space

Booking Operations space

Programming space

Constructing a drive through the sallyport

Medical housing space

Kitchen expansion

Loading dock

Provide a logical path for future inmate housing

Community Corrections

Medical services, kitchen services and support staff are shared between Community Corrections and the Jail.

Need to expand Community Corrections in the next 10 years. Community Corrections is the best solution for Hamilton County.

Don't need maximum security for Community Corrections

They are looking at ways to use technology where no additional desk space will be need. To accomplish will need more vehicles with in-car computers. Correctional employees would work out of their cars.

12% of the Community Corrections budget is from the county, balance is from Department of Corrections.

Corrections Campus

Joe Mrak, RQAW presented an overview of the master plan for the Justice Campus. The master plan for the site should be completed by July 9th. The current location will accommodate all facilities, including Community Corrections.

There is enough parking.

Master plan will include:

Projections for 10, 20 and 30 years.

Architectural programs.

Operational program for Community Corrections which will reduce the impact on the Jail.

Develop a phased implementation plan.

Maximum Capacity

Juvenile Services Center - 100

Community Corrections - 100

Jail - 300

Jail Expansion

North end expansion is in schematic phase. Expansion includes:

Expanded food service area

Expanded medical component

New Intake Center

Expanded Inmate program area

New Jail lobby

New Jail administrative offices

Estimated cost - \$7.6-\$8.5 million

South end expansion is in conceptual phase. It will be two-story with basement.

Basement - central communications and EMA.

First Floor - investigations expansion/evidence storage

Second Floor - Patrol Division

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Parks Department

Al Patterson presented the capital expenditure “Wish List” for the parks department.

Demming Property @ 142 acres - \$2,700,000.00
Cool Creek Property @ 13 acres - \$500,000.00
Coxhall Greenhouse - \$500,000.00
Coxhall Border Fencing - \$150,000.00
Coxhall Centerpiece Completion - \$300,000.00
Coxhall Irrigation Completion - \$150,000.00
Security Video System @ Parks - \$100,000.00
Campsite improvements at White River Campground - \$175,000.00
Netting @ Morse Beach Softball Diamonds - \$30,000.00
Monon Trail 216th Street to Lamong Road - \$3,000,000.00
Hard Surface Front (eastern) Trails @ Geist - \$50,000.00
Playground Phase II @ Carmel/Clay Community Park - \$150,000.00
Potential park land @ Indianapolis Executive Airport @ 105 acres - \$1,500,000.00

SR 37 Park (new) estimated capital development expenses:

Minimum Total - \$162,000

Maximum Total - \$287,000

Projected annual maintenance budget - \$10,000

Judicial Center - no specific plans. Need 5-10 year scope for expansion.

Red Cross Building - no specific plans. Need to look at parking issues. Possible parking garage.

Employee Comp Balances - need policy.

Next Retreat - August, 2005

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Present

Christine Altman, Commissioner
Steven C. Dillinger, Commissioner
Steven A. Holt, Commissioner
Brad Beaver, Councilor
Jim Belden, Councilor
John Hiatt, Councilor
Judy Levine, Councilor
Rick McKinney, Councilor
Steve Schwartz, Councilor
Robin Mills, Auditor
Dawn Coverdale, Chief Deputy Auditor
Mike Reuter, Financial Consultant
Doug Carter, Sheriff
Dan Stevens, Captain
Fred Swift, Administrative Assistant to Commissioners
Kim Rauch, Administrative Assistant to Auditor
Joe Mrak, RQAW
Ralph Watson, Community Corrections
Diana Lamirand, Ledger
Mike Kole

APPROVED
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ATTEST:

Robin M. Mills, Auditor

Date: _____

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